

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (canceled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A protective pad comprising:

a shell having a concave interior surface and a convex outer surface adjoined by a perimeter edge;

a pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane; and

an elastic suspension arrangement adjoining said pretensioned resilient padded membrane about the perimeter edge of said shell to define a cavity between said shell and said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane;

~~A protective pad as recited in claim 1,~~ wherein said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane being stretched in multiple directions prior to being elastically suspended at said shell, and said elastic suspension arrangement further comprising a resilient bonding material, so that a trampoline-type unit is formed by said shell, pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane and elastic suspension arrangement.

Claim 3 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 2, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an outer area of engagement between said shell and said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 4 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 2, wherein said resilient bonding material extends to or substantially covers an exterior of said shell.

Claim 5 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 4, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an outer area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 6 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 2, wherein said resilient bonding material extends to or substantially covers said tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 7 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 6, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an outer area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 8 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 3, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an inner area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 9 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 8, wherein said resilient bonding material extends to an exterior of said shell.

Claim 10 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 2, wherein said shell further comprising an integral shell flange outwardly extending from an outer periphery thereof and configured for engaging said resilient bonding material.

Claim 11 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 10, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at inner and outer areas of engagement of said flange with said tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 12 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 10, wherein said resilient bonding material is sandwiched between said flange and said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 13 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 8, wherein the resilient bonding material provided at said outer area of engagement of said shell and said padded membrane extends completely around an edge of said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 14 (original): A protective pad as recited in claim 8, wherein said padded membrane has an opening extending therethrough and configured for engaging a human joint.

Claim 15 (canceled)

Claim 16 (currently amended): A pad for protecting a joint of a human limb, comprising:

a shell having a convex outer surface, a concave inner surface having a contour complementing the joint of said human limb, and an outer edge adjoining said inner and outer surfaces;
a pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane; and
an elastic suspension arrangement adjoining said pretensioned resilient padded membrane about the edge of said shell to define a cavity between said shell and said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane;

~~A joint pad as recited in claim 15,~~ wherein a said tensioned resilient padded membrane being stretched in multiple directions prior to being suspended at said shell, said elastic suspension arrangement further comprises a resilient bonding material, so that a trampoline-type unit is formed by said shell, pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane and elastic suspension arrangement.

Claim 17 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 16, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an outer area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 18 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 16, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an inner area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 19 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 18, wherein said resilient bonding material is provided at an outer area of engagement of said shell with said pre-tensioned resilient padded membrane.

Claim 20 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 17, wherein said resilient bonding material extends to the convex outer surface of said shell.

Claim 21 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 19, wherein said resilient bonding material extends to or covers the convex outer surface of said shell.

Claim 22 (original): A joint pad as recited in claim 19, wherein said resilient bonding material substantially covers said tensioned resilient padded membrane.